



# Congressman Jared Polis

2<sup>nd</sup> District, Colorado | 501 Cannon HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515 | (202) 225-2161

## H.R. 4530 – The “Student Non-Discrimination Act” (SNDA)

### Background

- Every day, students who are, or are perceived to be, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) are subjected to pervasive discrimination, including harassment, bullying, intimidation and violence, which is harmful to both students and our education system. Surveys indicate as many as nine in 10 LGBT students have been bullied.
- These hurtful actions deprive students of equal educational opportunities and contribute to high rates of absenteeism, dropout, adverse health consequences, and academic underachievement among LGBT youth. Left unchecked, discrimination can lead, and has led, to life-threatening violence and to suicide. And when school officials engage in discriminatory treatment, or are indifferent to harassing behavior, LGBT students’ constitutional rights are infringed.
- While Federal civil rights statutes expressly address discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin, they do not explicitly include sexual orientation or gender identity and, as a result, LGBT students and parents have often had limited legal recourse for this kind of discrimination.

### What does the “Student Non-Discrimination Act” do?

- The “Student Non-Discrimination Act” (SNDA) would establish a comprehensive Federal prohibition of discrimination in public schools based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.
- SNDA would provide protections for LGBT students and ensure that all students have access to public education in a safe environment free from discrimination, including harassment, bullying, intimidation and violence.
- SNDA would also provide meaningful and effective remedies (loss of federal funding and legal cause of action for victims) for discrimination in public schools based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, modeled after Title IX.

### Supporting Organizations

American Association of University Women  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Counseling Association  
Gay-Straight Alliance Network  
GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders)  
GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network)  
Human Rights Campaign  
Lambda Legal

National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund  
National Women's Law Center  
School Social Work Association of America  
Transgender Law Center

### Congressional Co-Sponsors

Rep. Gary L. Ackerman  
Rep. Tammy Baldwin  
Rep. Shelley Berkley  
Rep. Howard Berman

Rep. Earl Blumenauer  
Rep. Robert Brady  
Rep. Lois Capps  
Rep. Michael Capuano

Rep. Kathy Castor  
Rep. Judy Chu  
Rep. Yvette Clarke  
Rep. Joe Courtney  
Rep. Joseph Crowley  
Rep. Elijah Cummings  
Rep. Susan Davis  
Rep. Diana DeGette  
Rep. Mike Doyle  
Rep. Keith Ellison  
Rep. Eliot Engel  
Rep. Sam Farr  
Rep. Bob Filner  
Rep. Barney Frank  
Rep. John Garamendi  
Rep. Raul Grijalva  
Rep. Luis Guterierrez  
Rep. John Hall  
Rep. Alcee L. Hastings  
Rep. Mazie Hirono  
Rep. Rush Holt  
Rep. Michael Honda  
Rep. Steve Israel  
Rep. Hank Johnson  
Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy  
Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich

Rep. Barbara Lee  
Rep. Zoe Lofgren  
Rep. Betty McCollum  
Rep. Jim McDermott  
Rep. James McGovern  
Rep. Carolyn Maloney  
Rep. Gregory W. Meeks  
Rep. James Moran  
Rep. Jerrold Nadler  
Rep. Grace Napolitano  
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Rep. Chellie Pingree  
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Rep. Steven Rothman  
Rep. Lucille Royball-Allard  
Rep. Linda Sanchez  
Rep. Jan Schakowsky  
Rep. Jose Serrano  
Rep. Brad Sherman  
Rep. Louise M. Slaughter  
Rep. Jackie Speier  
Rep. Pete Stark  
Rep. Edolphus Towns  
Rep. Peter Welch  
Rep. Lynn Woolsey  
Rep. David Wu

### **Further Reading**

- [NPR: Justice Department Intervenes In Gay Rights Suit](#)
- [Documentary Film: Out In Silence](#)
- [ACLU: High School Student Takes On Anti-Gay Harassment And Wins](#)
- [ACLU: Nguon v. Wolf - Case Profile](#)
- [ACLU: Outing at Hollis F. Price Middle College High School - Case Profile](#)
- [ACLU: Gillman v. Holmes County School District - Case Profile](#)
- [ACLU: Russellville, Alabama School Prom Discrimination](#)